

IN THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for delivery of high-performance online multimedia services comprising:
 - assigning general content to be multicast;
 - customizing the general content to suit a first area, which corresponds to a first geographical region, and thus forming a first version of the content;
 - customizing the general content to suit a second area, which corresponds to a second geographical region, and thus forming a second version of the content;
 - multicasting, through a first head-end, the first version to an end-user system in the first area;
 - caching the first version of the content at the first head-end; [[and]]
 - multicasting, through a second head-end, the second version to an end-user system in the second area;
 - caching the second version of the content at the second head-end;
 - receiving a request for the first version of the content at the first head-end from a second end-user system in the first area; and
 - providing the first version of the content from cache in response to the request.
- 2-3. (Canceled)
4. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - receiving, at a first regional server in communication with the first head-end and a third head-end, the the first version of the content from the remote source and en route to the first head-end;
 - caching the first version of the conten at the first regional server; and
 - receiving the request for the first version of the content from a third end-user system in communication with the third head-end; and

providing the first version of the content from the first regional server.

5. (New) The method of claim 4, further comprising:

receiving a request for uncached content; and

bypassing a backbone network connection by directly connecting to a content source.

6. (New) A computer-readable medium storing a computer program product configured to perform a method for delivery of high-performance online multimedia services, the method comprising:

assigning general content to be multicast;

customizing the general content to suit a first area, which corresponds to a first geographical region, and thus forming a first version of the content;

customizing the general content to suit a second area, which corresponds to a second geographical region, and thus forming a second version of the content;

multicasting, through a first head-end, the first version to an end-user system in the first area;

caching the first version of the content at the first head-end;

multicasting, through a second head-end, the second version to an end-user system in the second area;

caching the second version of the content at the second head-end;

receiving a request for the first version of the content at the first head-end from a second end-user system in the first area; and

providing the first version of the content from cache in response to the request.

7. (New) The computer program product of claim 6, the method further comprising:

receiving, at a first regional server in communication with the first head-end and a third head-end, the first version of the content from the remote source and en route to the first head-end;

caching the first version of the content at the first regional server; and
receiving the request for the first version of the content from a third end-
user system in communication with the third head-end; and
providing the first version of the content from the first regional server.

8. (New) The method of claim 7, further comprising:
receiving a request for uncached content; and
bypassing a backbone network connection by directly connecting to a
content source for requesting the uncached content.

9. (New) A system for delivery of high-performance online
multimedia services, the method comprising:
a content source to assign general content to be multicast, to customize the
general content to suit a first area, which corresponds to a first
geographical region, and thus forming a first version of the content, to
customize the general content to suit a second area, which corresponds to
a second geographical region, and thus forming a second version of the
content, and to multicast the first version to an end-user system in the first
area;
a first head-end, in communication with the content source, to cache the first
version of the content; and
a second head-end, in communication with the content source, to cache the second
version of the content,
wherein the first head-end receives a request for the first version of the from a
second end-user system in the first area, and provides the first version of
the content from cache.

10. (New) The system of claim 9, further comprising:
a regional server, in communication with the content source, and also in
communication with the first head-end and a third head-end, to receive the
the first version of the content from the remote source and en route to the

first head-end, and to cache the first version of the content at the first regional server, wherein the regional server receives a request for the first version of the content from a third end-user system in communication with the third head-end, and provides the first version of the content from cache.

11. (New) The system of claim 10, wherein the regional server, in response to receiving a request for uncached content, bypasses a backbone network connection to directly connect to the content source for requesting the uncached content.